

Identifying Strongholds of Pride and Arrogance

Definitions

Pride (noun): *high or overbearing opinion of one's worth or importance.*

Arrogance (noun): *aggressively assertive or presumptuous.*

Proverbs 11² *'When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom'.*

Checklist

Recognise where there may be manifestations of pride or arrogance in you by rating the following statements on the scale of: 1 – hardly ever, 2 – occasionally, 3 – sometimes, 4 – often, 5 – nearly always.

- ☐ I live mostly for my own benefit.
- ☐ I regard myself as more important than others
- ☐ I think and act selfishly.
- ☐ I create strife, division and chaos.
- ☐ I gossip and tear down others.
- ☐ I look at others with jealousy.
- ☐ I take offence easily and quickly.
- ☐ I become angry when my "rights" are violated.
- ☐ I view myself above others. I will not 'lower' myself to serve others.
- ☐ I display a '*my way is the only way*' attitude.
- ☐ I find it difficult to bend or to be flexible.
- ☐ I lean towards defensiveness and even combativeness.
- ☐ The forceful control and manipulation of other people (I shut others down with forceful use of words).
- ☐ I desire to compete in arenas that have winners and losers. I am not drawn to 'nameless and faceless' assignments. I want some of the recognition or 'glory' for the assignment.

- ☐ I posture or position myself so that my gifts, possessions, strengths, and abilities are accentuated.
- ☐ Everyone else's sins are worse than mine. (Leads to denial of the gravity of my own sins).
- ☐ I have distaste for receiving instructions.
- ☐ I have an inward desire to see other people fail. I secretly enjoy the failure of others.
- ☐ Refusal to function in certain tasks that are 'beneath' me.
- ☐ I find it easy to see the shortcomings and sins of others but often I cannot see my own.
- ☐ I am critical of the positions, blessings, and gifts of others. I want others to know how wonderful I am, and I drop frequent hints – some subtle, some not so subtle – in praise of myself.
- ☐ I am willing to gossip and tear down others so I will look better than them.
- ☐ I am unwilling to 'give in' for the sake of others.
- ☐ I find it easy to follow my own advice, my own direction, and my own wisdom.
- ☐ I find it hard to receive and accept 'godly advice, wisdom and correction' from others.
- ☐ I see myself as my own leader and authority.
- ☐ I am self-sufficient; I do not need others – and sometimes I do not need God.
- ☐ I tend to get involved in arguments and conflicts.
- ☐ I consider myself 'independent'.
- ☐ I often refer to my own 'Christian activities', 'religious background' or 'spiritual life' as a benchmark for others.

1 Peter 5⁵ '*... All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*'

Where we recognise that pride has a place within us we need to acknowledge it before God and seek to walk in the opposite spirit of humility.

Humility in this sense can be understood as a willingness to be known for who we really are; a total dependence on God's sufficiency; complete submission to the Lordship of Christ and absolute obedience to the Word and truth of God.

What may walking in humility look like?

- ☐ I will view myself as a servant to everyone.
- ☐ I will grow in the character of Christ.
- ☐ I will look for opportunities to see others lifted up.
- ☐ I will see myself in accord with the ways God sees me.
- ☐ I will acknowledge my shortcomings and sins in the presence of others so I can be encouraged in my walk with the Lord.
- ☐ I will acknowledge that all that I am, all that I have, and all that I do, comes to me from the Lord. I can take no claim for myself. I will pray consistently for God to reveal any pride or arrogance that may be hidden in my life.
- ☐ I will understand that my only hope is in complete dependence on God and obedience to Him.

Dealing with pride or arrogance before God

REPENT	<i>Jesus, I ask forgiveness for the sin of pride and arrogance. I ask forgiveness for every way it has affected my relationship with you and others. (Specifically ask for forgiveness for each box you ranked as a problem as well as any sins that come to mind associated with each category). I ask forgiveness for _____. I see it and call it sin. I now turn in repentance, and commit myself to breaking the patterns of pride and arrogance in my life.</i>
RECEIVE	<i>I receive your forgiveness Lord. I receive the empowering work of the Holy Spirit to live in the truth of humility. Holy Spirit continue to fill me so that I can walk in the spirit of Christ.</i>
REBUKE	<i>In Jesus name and authority, I rebuke every spirit of pride and arrogance in my life and command you to the feet of Jesus. In Jesus' name I rebuke every spirit that was given a foothold in my life due to pride. In the name of Jesus, every deceiving and lying spirit must go to the feet of Jesus.</i>
REPLACE	<i>I replace the sin of pride and arrogance by walking in humility. (This occurs as we affirm the truth; renew our minds in it continually, and meditate on what the scriptures say about it).</i>

Scriptures to reflect on:

Psalm 18:27; Psalm 25:9; Proverbs 8:13; Proverbs 13:10; Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 29:23; Mark 7:21-23; James 3:14; 2 Peter 2:18-19.